

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15, with the following revised versions thereof:

1. (Amended) A method for screening for HCV exposure in humans that utilizes an immunoassay for detection of molecule(s) capable of recognizing multiple classes of anti-HCV molecules simultaneously in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples comprising the following steps:

- (a) obtaining a sample of oral fluid or other bodily fluid;
- (b) introducing a labeling molecule to label human antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples thereby forming a labeled fluid;
- (c) introducing the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens;
- (d) selectively capturing and detecting labeled antibodies which are specific for the HCV peptide antigens present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix,
- (e) measuring the binding reaction between the human antibodies and HCV peptide antigens of the trapping zone by amplified enzymatic reaction wherein the presence of a binding reaction between human antibodies and peptide antigens indicates HCV exposure.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule as a labeling molecule in step (b) to tag all classes of antibodies for subsequent detection.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the labeling molecule is alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

7. (Amended) A method for screening oral fluid samples for the presence of anti-HCV molecules of the IgA class comprising the steps of:

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- (a) obtaining a sample of oral fluid;
 - (b) introducing a labeling molecule to the oral fluid to label antibodies in said fluid thereby forming a labeled fluid;
 - (c) introducing the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens;
 - (d) selectively capturing of labeled antibodies which are specific for the HCV peptide antigens present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;
 - (e) detecting anti-HCV molecules of the IgA class that specifically bind at least one epitope of the HCV peptide antigens present within the trapping zone.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule as a labeling molecule in step (b) to tag all classes of antibodies for subsequent detection.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 7 wherein the labeling molecule of step (b) is alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

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11. (Amended) A method for determining the genotype of HCV virus in a patient having HCV by measuring patient antibody binding to HCV peptides of specific HCV genotypes comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a sample of oral fluid or other bodily fluid;
- (b) introducing a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples thereby forming a labeled fluid;
- (c) introducing the labeled fluid into a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens;
- (d) selectively capturing and detecting labeled antibodies which are specific for the HCV peptide antigens present within a trapping zone of the flow through affinity matrix;
- (e) measuring the binding reaction between the human antibodies and HCV peptide antigens of the trapping zone by amplified enzymatic reaction to determine the genotype of HCV virus.

94 12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 that utilizes a non-antibody molecule to as a labeling molecule in step (b) tag all classes of antibodies for subsequent detection.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the labeling molecule is alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-human IgG+IgM+IgA antibody cocktail.

95 15. (Amended) A kit for use in the method of claim 1 comprising:
(a) a labeling molecule to label antibodies present in oral fluid or other bodily fluid samples;
(b) a flow through affinity matrix comprising immobilized HCV peptide antigens.
